(b) Letters of Intent are issued to the allottees by the four oil marketing companies namely, IOC, HPC, BPC & IBP.

Import of natural gas from OPESC

2820. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Tata Energy Research Institute have conducted a Study concerning energy trade possibilities between countries of South Asian Region and OPEC for mutual benefits;

(b) if so, what are prospects of India gaining energy advantage from the mutual agreements for using natural gas;

(c) whether Government propose to import natural gas from OPEC by laying pipeline either under sea or over ground;

(d) if so, whether the feasibility of such alternatives have been examined; and

(e) whether the countries participating in such ventures have shown their willingness?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) and (b) The Study conducted by TERI generally brings out the prospects of gas exports from the middle-East to South Asian countries, but specific details are not available for establishing the viability of gas imports into India.

(c) to (e) A proposal for the import of natural gas through a pipeline from the Middle East is at a conceptual stage.

Revised Oil Budget

2821. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have revised the oil budget for funding oil imports during 1992-93;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) what is the extant of slippage in the indigenous production during 1992-93 resulting in the shortfall stating the reasons for not achieving the anticipated production target during 1992-93; and

(d) what is the additional foreign exchange likely to be spent as a result of the revised oil budget?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) and (b) Oil imports for the year 1992-93 is estimated to cost approximately 6.18 billion US dollars.

(c) Planned indigenous crude oil production during 1992-93 was 28.464 MMT as against the expected production of 26.834 MMT.

(d) This would depend upon the prices in international market along with the rupee value in the context of convertibility.

Subsidy on LPG

2822. SHRI MATANG SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATRURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the extent of subsidy on domestic LPG as at present;

(b) whether the Government are working on subsidy phase-out;

(c) details of the subsidy phased out during the past five years, year-wise and time schedule of the cycle for the next five years; and

(d) implications of domestic LPG subsidy phase out on consumers in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) The extent of subsidy on domestic LPG for the year 1992-93 is estimated to be Rs. 1145 crores.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.